

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated July 7, 2003, and reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Formal drawings have been submitted under separate cover letter to the Official Draftsman. Approval and entry of the formal drawings is requested.

Claims 1-9, 22 and 25 are subject to the restriction requirement, and these claims have been withdrawn from further consideration in this application. However, since the restriction requirement has been made final, these claims have been cancelled. Additionally, rejected claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 12, 13, 15 and 18-21 are directed to allowable subject matter. If necessary, these claims will be rewritten in independent form inkling all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition to the claims that are directed to allowable subject matter, claims 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 23 and 24 remain. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also directed to allowable subject matter since the prior art does not disclose or suggest the appliance for material separation specifically recited in claim 10 and dependent claims 11, 14, 16, 17 and 23. Specifically these claims are not anticipated by Binkley U.S. 5,106,556, for the following reasons. Additionally, claim 24 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Binkley and Hedrick U.S. 5,328,592, for the following reasons.

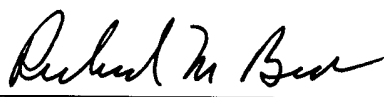
Fundamentally, Binkley discloses a method of mixing vapor with liquid in a distillation tower and an appliance therefore. Hedrick on the other hand discloses a

process for separating solid catalyst particles from gaseous hydrocarbon vapors leaving a catalytic cracking reactor and an appliance therefore. Unlike either Binkley or Hedrick the present invention as defined in the claims is directed to an appliance for the separation of insoluble solid particles from a liquid employing a sedimentation process in combination with a countercurrent flow of washing liquid. Accordingly, it is fair to concluded that neither of the cited references relate to the subject matter specifically recited in the rejected claims. These claims have been amended to make it abundantly clear that the washing medium is a liquid as opposed to a gas or vapor.

Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above it is believed that the rejected claims define an invention which distinguish over the prior art particularly Binkley and the combination of Binkley and Hedrick. The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE AND HUTZ LLP

By 
Richard M. Beck
Reg. No. 22,580
Telephone: 302 658-9141

RMB/alh/290277